

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3908—FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act

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H.R. 3908—FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House will continue considering H.R. 3908 as its only order of business today. Yesterday, the House began considering amendments under an open rule. Last night, the House agreed to a unanimous consent request that makes in order the following amendments: (1) *pro forma* amendments offered by the chairman or ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, (2) an amendment by Mr. Obey; and (3) other amendments specified and listed below. Each amendment is debatable for 20 minutes, equally divided between a proponent and an opponent.

Summary: H.R. 3908 provides \$8.6 billion in overall funding to (1) support operations in Kosovo, (2) provide counternarcotics assistance to Columbia, and (3) provide natural disaster assistance. This amount is \$3.8 billion more than the president's request.

Specifically, the measure provides \$5 billion, \$2.2 billion more than the president's request, to support current Kosovo peacekeeping operations and other defense accounts. Of note, the bill appropriates:

- * \$2.1 billion for Personnel, Operation & Maintenance, and health accounts to cover the costs of stationing troops in the Kosovo region, equal to the president's request;
- * \$116 million to repair DOD facilities that have been damaged by natural disasters, \$88.5 million more than the president's request;
- * \$858 million for the military health care program to supplement the program's current lack of funding (the president did not request additional funds);

- * \$1.6 billion to cover the unexpected rising cost of fuel prices for DOD (the president did not request any funds for this function); and
- * \$1.1 billion in emergency supplemental funding (\$962 million specifically to support Plan Colombia) to reduce the supply of narcotics to the U.S. from the Andean region, aid Colombian local and national governing ability, and support human rights.

The measure appropriates \$2.2 billion to provide disaster assistance to families and businesses affected by Hurricanes Floyd, Dennis, and Irene, as well as other natural disasters. Finally, the bill provides \$175 million in supplemental funding for a number of programs and rescinds approximately \$426.6 million from various agencies.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the bill. The Clinton Administration supports the legislation generally but has concerns with the committee bill and seeks additional funding in a number of areas which the committee did not have time to consider prior to floor consideration.

Amendments: The following amendments were made in order by unanimous consent:

Mr. Obey may offer an amendment that cuts \$522 million from the \$1.7 billion Counternarcotics (Title I) section of the bill. Specifically, the amendment cuts \$51 million from the \$186 million provided for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities (Defense) and \$501 million from the \$1.1 billion provided for the Department of State's Assistance Plan for Andean and Regional Counternarcotics Activities. **Contact: x5-3481**

Mr. Paul may offer an amendment (#5) to cut funds for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) funding by \$293 million. In addition, it eliminates Department of Defense (DOD) Colombian Army funding in the amount of \$1.1 billion and \$186 million for Bilateral Economic Assistance to gain control of drug regions. It also prohibits the use of military construction funds for construction outside of the U.S. and its territories. Finally, the amendment prohibits the use of appropriated funds for operations in Kosovo and East Timor from being used for any functions other than bringing troops currently stationed in those areas back to the United States. **Staff Contact: Joe Becker, x5-2831**

Mr. Stearns may offer an amendment (#15) to reduce each appropriation in the bill by 10 percent except for funding designated as emergency or funding made available for the Defense Department. **Staff Contact: Veronica Crowe, x5-5744**

Mr. Taylor (MS) may offer an amendment (#9) to limit the maximum number of U.S. military personnel deployed to Colombia at any given time to 300. The number of troops may exceed this level only in circumstances that require the rescue or recovery of U.S. military or government personnel and for no longer than 30 consecutive days. **Staff Contact: Stephen Peranich x5-5772**

Mr. Traficant may offer an amendment (#17) to (1) express the sense of Congress that all products bought under funds appropriated by this act are American-made and (2) require all agencies receiving funds to report any expenditures on foreign-made items to Congress within 180 days of expenditure. **Contact: x5-5261**

Mr. Baldacci may offer an amendment regarding technology assistance conservation for buildings and other facilities. *Contact: x5-6306*

Mr. Tancredo may offer an amendment (#16) to eliminate the \$20 million in the bill for the building and construction of a new Food and Drug Administration facility in Los Angeles, California. The proposed building is a 133,000 square foot building to be located on land adjacent to the University of California-Irvine. *Contact: x5-7882*

The following amendment may also be considered on the floor:

Messrs. Kasich, Condit, Shays, Frank, and Bachus may offer an amendment to withhold 50 percent of the bill's funding for operations in Kosovo (\$2.1 billion) until the president certifies that the European Commission, European Union member nations, and European NATO members are fulfilling their financial and personnel commitments toward this effort. Specifically, the president must certify that the aforementioned European allies have (1) obligated or contracted for at least 33 percent of their financial commitment for reconstruction in Kosovo; (2) obligated or contracted for at least 75 percent of their financial commitment for humanitarian assistance in Kosovo; (3) provided at least 75 percent of their financial commitment for the Kosovo Consolidated Budget; and (4) provided at least 75 percent of their police force commitment for the United Nations international police force for Kosovo. If the president fails to certify that these conditions have been met by June 1, 2000, the funding withheld will be made available only to conduct a safe, orderly, and phased withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Kosovo. *Staff Contacts: Mike Lofgren (Kasich), x5-5355; Len Wolfson (Shays), x5-5541*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXIX, #8, March 24, 2000.

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